

□ 1802

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULSHOF) at 6 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 5173, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 5010, by the yeas and nays; and
H.R. 2984, de novo.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

DEBT RELIEF LOCK-BOX RECONCILIATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 5173, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5173, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 3, not voting 50, as follows:

[Roll No. 477]

YEAS—381

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Army
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior

Bono
Borski
Boswell
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne

Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dickens
Dingell
Dixon
Castle
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Filner
Fletcher

Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrist
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilliard
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Klecza
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee

Levin
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalfe
Mica
Millender
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minge
Mink
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Napolitano
Ney
Northup
Nussle
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Packard
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pease
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema

NAYS—3

NOT VOTING—50

Mollohan
Blunt
Boucher
Campbell
Chenoweth-Hage
Nadler
Cook
Crane
Cubin
Dooley
Sabo
Dunn
Ehrlich
Emerson
Fattah

best course of action to insure the continued fiscal health of this nation, is to pay down publicly-held debt, while simultaneously safeguarding Social Security and Medicare. Under H.R. 5173, the non-Social Security, non-Medicare surplus, estimated at \$42 billion, would be reserved for debt reduction and would be kept in a newly-established special account, maintained by the U.S. Department of Treasury, for use to purchase publicly-held debt at or before maturity. H.R. 5173 also amends the Republican flawed budget, H. Con. Res. 290, by creating "points of order" in the House and Senate, against any legislation that would use the projected \$165 billion Social Security Trust Fund and \$32 billion Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund surpluses for anything other than paying down the debt. This measure, which leaves \$29 billion available for spending increases or tax cuts, represents an enormous departure from the Republican Leadership's trillion dollars tax cut.

Paying down the debt is sound fiscal policy. First, by retiring Treasury bonds and reducing their availability, interest rates decline, including lower cost mortgages and car loans. Second, reducing the debt frees up capital for investment in more productive assets which will spur economic growth. Third, paying down the debt frees up federal resources which are otherwise consumed by interest costs. Fourth, lower interest rates, increased savings and economic growth, and freeing up resources all work together to increase our ability to extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare. And fifth, the projected long-term budget surplus is based on assumptions which could change.

I have consistently argued that consuming the projected surpluses rather than pay down debt, leaves no room for error if the assumptions on budgetary surpluses turn out to be wrong and could lead us back on the path of increased debt, squeezing out Social Security, Medicare, defense, and other priorities. For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5173, a concession by the Republican Leadership that their massive tax cutting scheme, was fiscally imprudent.

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5173, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 6 p.m.